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BEFORE
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF
SOUTH CAROLINA
DOCKET NO. 90-556-R - ORDER NO. 90-818
AUGUST 28, 1990

IN RE: Requests from Jurisdictional)
Motor Carriers for Approval of)
an Emergency Fuel Surcharge.) SUPPLEMENTAL
ORDER

This matter has come before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (the Commission) by way of various requests from jurisdictional motor carriers for approval of a fuel surcharge based upon significantly increased fuel costs experienced by these carriers as a result of the current political crisis in the Middle East.

The Commission has recognized that an emergency situation exists in respect of considerable increases in fuel costs suddenly experienced by motor carriers, and has, in Order No. 90-775 previously issued in this docket, allowed jurisdictional motor carriers to impose an emergency fuel surcharge of up to 5% for a period of up to thirty (30) days.

Since the issuance of Order No. 90-775, the Commission Staff (the Staff) has advised the Commission of the persistence of the emergency situation and formulated the following recommendations:

1. That motor carriers should be allowed to institute, on an emergency basis, a fuel surcharge of up to 7%.

2. That any motor carrier implementing such a fuel surcharge should be required to file with the Commission written notice of the implemetation, the effective date and the amount of the surcharge.

3. That this emergency fuel surcharge should be allowed to remain in effect for up to thirty (30) days.

4. That any motor carrier desiring to continue a surcharge beyond thirty (30) days should file with the Commission cost justification supporting the requested surcharge.

5. That the emergency fuel surcharge should apply only to line-haul rates and fuel-related accessorial charges, and should apply evenly to all of the implementing motor carrier's shippers.

6. That fuel surcharge funds collected should apply to increased fuel costs.

7. That motor carriers implementing the fuel surcharge should be subject to audit, and that the Commission should order refunds if abuse is found.

After a full and careful consideration of the Staff's recommendations and the situation wherein they have been proffered, the Commission finds that an emergency exists and that these recommendations are just and reasonable, and, further, that it is in the public interest to approve them.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. That motor carriers shall be allowed to institute, on an emergency basis, a fuel surcharge of up to 7%.
2. That any motor carrier implementing such a fuel surcharge shall file with the Commission written notice of the implementation, the effective date and the amount of the surcharge.
3. That this emergency fuel surcharge shall be allowed to remain in effect for up to thirty (30) days.
4. That any motor carrier desiring to continue a surcharge beyond thirty (30) days shall file with the Commission cost justification supporting the requested surcharge.
5. That the emergency fuel surcharge shall apply only to line-haul rates and fuel-related accessorial charges, and shall apply evenly to all of the implementing motor carrier's shippers.
6. That fuel surcharge funds collected shall apply to increased fuel costs.
7. That motor carriers implementing the fuel surcharge shall be subject to audit, and that the Commission shall order refunds if abuse is found.


BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:



Chairman

ATTEST:

Deputy


Executive Director
(SEAL)